

## Going Once, Going Twice...

### Get Your Auction Tickets Before They're Gone!

As advocates we are all passionate about a bike-friendly Washington. What fuels that passion for you? Your daily commute? A beachfront cruise? A trail ride with your family? A challenging century ride? A long distance tour?

Come to the year's biggest party to celebrate your passionate affair with bicycling. Join your friends at the BIG, BETTER THAN EVER CELEBRATION of bicycling. Support the joy and freedom of bicycling in bicycle-friendly communities all across Washington.

**14TH ANNUAL  
BICYCLE ALLIANCE AUCTION & GALA  
NOVEMBER 4, 2006  
SEATTLE CENTER EXHIBITION HALL**

This year's Auction will be held at a new venue, the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, off Mercer at 3rd Ave North in Seattle. Directions can be found online at [bicyclealliance.org](http://bicyclealliance.org).

Tickets are \$60 per person until October 1, 2006 and \$75 after that. Tables of TEN are \$600 before October 1 and \$750 after that. To purchase tickets or reserve tables, contact Louise McGrody at 206.224.9252 or [louisemc@bicyclealliance.org](mailto:louisemc@bicyclealliance.org).

## SAFE AND ACTIVE ROUTES Program Continues to Assist Statewide

At the end of June the Bicycle Alliance completed work on the Washington Traffic Safety Commission Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant. We continue to receive thanks, praise, and more requests for assistance. This successful program has garnered many contacts statewide.

As we reported in May, we are in the process of expanding the SR2S program to include an on-line center, summits, and more trainings and workshops as well as additional assistance to schools, agencies and community organizations. The planned on-line center will provide a variety of resources including "how-to" manuals, model curriculums, and other aids and documents. We are designing a logo and brochure, and will be making changes to our web site to reflect this exciting expansion.

We co-taught classes with Washington Department of Transportation staff about grant opportunities and we continue to lead one-day safe routes to school trainings. Currently we are assisting organizations in Tacoma and Bonney Lake to prepare DOT grant applications.

Keep an eye on our web site [bicyclealliance.org/saferoutes/](http://bicyclealliance.org/saferoutes/) to learn more or to find out how you can become involved. You can also contact Dave Janis at the Bicycle Alliance office at 206.224.9252 or [Davej@bicyclealliance.org](mailto:Davej@bicyclealliance.org)

## Statewide Issues & Legislative Priorities

Bicycle clubs from around the state sent representatives to the summer meeting of the Statewide Issues and Legislative Committee meeting on July 22. The following legislative issues were discussed and ranked in order of importance (other items were presented but received no votes):

- 1 Defeat I-933 which guts environmental protections.
- 2 Modify the RCW to require that new driver education include coursework about pedestrians and bicyclists.
- 3 Site schools inside city limits rather than outside of town.
- 4 Tie funding of projects to Complete Streets which accommodate all users: transit, bikes, pedestrians, freight, motorists, the elderly and youth.
- 5 Legislation to eliminate dark tinted windows.
- 6 Continue Safe Routes to School programs.
- 7 Challenge cell phone use by motorists.
- 8 Address unsafe railroad crossings.
- 9 Develop trail standards and support adherence to them.
- 10 Improve temporary traffic control to include non-motorized vehicles.
- 11 Legislation to eliminate glass on roadways.

The committee voted unanimously to support the "NO on I-933" and asked the Bicycle Alliance board to support the NO vote and endorse the NO campaign. Initiative 933, the property rights fairness act, would gut the Growth Management Act and require taxpayers to pay developers or waive land use and impact mitigation. I-933 would take Washington backward in land use planning and allow unchecked and unmitigated growth.

The next meeting of the committee will be in early December. This committee is co-chaired by Kristin Kinnamon of Snohomish BIKES and Jill Priest of West Sound Cycling Club. The committee is also investigating working with other transportation non-profits to co-host a lobby day during the legislative session.

# NEWS from around the state



## Tour de Fat: Ballyhoo of Bikes and Beer

New Belgium Brewing Company's celebration of bike culture and beer rolled into Seattle on a gorgeous Saturday in August. Hundreds of bicyclists riding an eclectic array of odd and wonderful bicycles celebrated the broad definition of bicyclist.

The Bicycle Alliance received \$4500 from the beer sales and Bike Works benefited from the bike parade. Bicycle Alliance volunteers enthusiastically embraced the event – checking IDs, selling beer tokens, pouring beers, and selling merchandise and memberships. Watch for this wacky, wonderful event in the summer of '07. It was a celebration that included music, vaudeville, costumes, vintage bikes and the zaniness of everything bicycling.



## Wanted: Friends for Spokane's Fish Lake Trail

The Bicycle Alliance of Washington is teaming up with the Inland Northwest Trails Coalition, Spokane REI, and other interested parties to organize Friends of the Fish Lake Trail. This group of volunteers will be trained to lead walks and bike rides along undeveloped portions of the trail corridor so citizens can experience and envision what this trail could be like. Members of the group will also lead some work parties to clean up segments of the corridor, and advocate for the completion of the trail. This project is supported by a grant from REI.

At press time, the City of Spokane announced a public meeting in late August to present a feasibility study to complete the trail and gauge public support for it. Interested in getting involved with the Friends? Contact Louise McGrody, 206.224.9252 or [louisemc@bicyclealliance.org](mailto:louisemc@bicyclealliance.org).

## Working Toward a Bicycle-Friendly Tacoma

Twenty enthusiastic Tacoma area cyclists turned out on a warm August evening to brainstorm ways to make their community more bicycle-friendly. The meeting was organized by the Bicycle Alliance and the Tacoma Wheelmen's Bicycle Club.

Attendees expressed a desire for more bike lanes and a connected network of bike facilities that link neighborhoods, employment centers and popular destinations. Why isn't it happening? Many felt there was a lack of commitment to biking and walking. Bob Myrick, chair of the Wheelmen's Government Affairs Committee, pointed out that the city only allocated 10 percent of a transportation planner's time to biking and pedestrian projects. The city also disbanded a citizens' Transportation Advisory Committee several years ago, which included non-motorized representation.

Several areas of focus emerged for Tacoma's advocacy efforts: securing a full-time nonmotorized planner, establishing a bicycle-pedestrian advisory committee, and developing and adopting a bicycle master plan. Many felt that the opportunity exists now to make things happen. Several current City Council members have an interest in biking and walking issues and the Council recently passed a resolution directing staff to move forward with the development of the historic Water Ditch Trail.

Attendees also had the opportunity to meet Diane Wiatr, the City's new Commute Trip Reduction Coordinator. Diane will be promoting bicycling as a transportation option to CTR employers in the area and she will coordinate Bike to Work and Bike to School activities.

These efforts will continue at the next Government Affairs Committee meeting, October 3 at 7 pm at the Taqueria Guadalajara at 1st and Tacoma Avenue in the Stadium District. If you want more information or would like to get involved, contact Louise McGrody at 206.224.9252 or [louisemc@bicyclealliance.org](mailto:louisemc@bicyclealliance.org)

*Save Date to Party  
with friends*

**Saturday, November 4, 2006  
5:30 – 9:30 PM**

## ROADSIDE NOTES: The Risk of Dying by Bicycle

By Bob Myrick

Your personal risk of dying seems to be 100 percent. I have become very concerned about dying by bicycle and safety due to being involved in three serious bicycle versus car accidents since 1990. My friend, John Ernest Berry III, was severely injured 20 years ago and is still suffering the effects of his accident. More recently, we lost Susie Stephens to a pedestrian versus bus accident. She was the second Director of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington. Less than a year ago, we lost Sue Gygax due to an inattentive driver on a very quiet road near Entiat, WA. In the latter case, the driver's fine for inattentive driving was less than \$300. Sue was married to Wayne Martin who started the famous Death Ride (Tour of the California Alps) in Markleeville, CA. I went on trips with Wayne and Sue for 13 years.

Many of you know I recently set up the Bicycle Safety Foundation at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation ([www.gtcf.org](http://www.gtcf.org)) in the name of Sue and Susie. An annual payment is made to the BAW to promote their bicycle safety efforts. In early August, we lost Bob Burton in Wisconsin as he and his wife were cycling across the USA. Again, an inattentive driver was responsible. He said he didn't see anything as he drove along the road. Bob retired from the City of Tacoma less than a year ago. He and his wife, Nita, sold their home in University Place and planned to travel to Europe and many other places before settling down again.

Bob's death got me to thinking again about the risk of dying by bicycle on shared roads, and whether I should confine myself to my rocker and the trails. I just happened to see a National Geographic article on this subject in the August, 2006 edition and I would like to share it with you. The risk of dying in a bicycle accident is 1 in 4919 or about 1 in 5000 according to 2003 data from the National

Safety Council. To put this in perspective, I have listed the risk of dying by other means as follows:

Heart Disease(1000 in 5000)	Pedestrian Accident(8 in 5000)
Cancer(700 in 5000)	Drowning(5 in 5000)
Stroke(200 in 5000)	Motorcycle Accident(5 in 5000)
Motor Vehicle(60 in 5000)	Fire or Smoke(4.4 in 5000)
Suicide(42 in 5000)	Bicycling Accident(1 in 5000)
Falling(23 in 5000)	Air/space Accident(1 in 5000)
Firearm Assault(16 in 5000)	Accidental Firearm(1 in 5000)

At first blush, bicycling still looks fairly safe. Of course not everyone is riding a bike or motorcycle or getting out on the water. So, it seems we have to adjust the bicycle numbers to reflect the percentage of the population who may be out on bikes. Lets say 2 percent of our population might be riding bicycles. Then, the rate of dying by bicycle rises to 50 in 5000 for us cyclists. Surely, this is not an acceptable number, but it is about the same as the motor vehicle accident rate or the suicide rate. It is far below the heart disease, cancer, and stroke rates. It is well known that physical activity and healthy eating greatly lower the risk of these diseases. Experts at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center say that nearly 80 percent of the 1.4 million cases of cancer that will strike individuals around the world this year may be preventable through life style choices such as exercise, a good diet and not smoking. Other studies show that cyclists as a group and aerobic exercisers seem to live about two extra years even after considering our tragic losses due to accidents.

*Continued on back*



## YES, I would like to become a member of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington

- \$25 Individual
  - \$50 Sponsor
  - \$100 Patron
  - \$250 Sustaining
  - \$500 Life
  - \$15 Student/Senior or Living Lightly
- Individuals signing up at these levels will receive Bike Alliance gloves.*
- Circle size: S M L XL
- \$100 Organization
  - \$250 Sustaining
- Clubs, shops, or businesses signing up at this level will be listed in the Bike Alliance newsletter.*
- I am already a member – this is a renewal.
  - I am interested in monthly giving.
  - I would like to volunteer.
  - I would like to receive email alerts.
  - I would like more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my:**

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Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed

My gift will be matched by my employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please include employer form.*

*Make/Send checks payable to:* The Bicycle Alliance of Washington  
 PO Box 2904,  
 Seattle, WA 98111

The Bicycle Alliance occasionally exchanges its mailing list with organizations involved in similar issues. If you DO NOT want to have your name exchanged, please check here.

**Thank you! The Bicycle Alliance of Washington is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.**

# Call for Auction Items

**Donate items or "experiences" and fuel a successful auction!**

Auction items are needed now. You can donate right now by filling out the online Auction Donation Form at [bicyclealliance.org/auction/](http://bicyclealliance.org/auction/), or print out the PDF donation form to fill in and mail to us. Donation questions, contact Louise McGrody at 206.224.9252 or [louisemc@bicyclealliance.org](mailto:louisemc@bicyclealliance.org).

Your donated item will be featured in the auction catalog and on the Bicycle Alliance and *BicyclePaper.com* websites along with your logo and a link to your website. The deadline to submit items is Thursday, October 12. Acting earlier will allow your donation to receive longer visibility on our websites.

Not sure what to donate? Tangible items such as bicycle gear, handcrafted jewelry, or gift certificates to your favorite restaurant or bike shop are always popular. Many hot items in past years have included "experiences" such as getaways or bicycle tours. Have a skill you can teach someone, such as bicycle maintenance, Spanish for travelers, or baking cookies? We can personalize a gift certificate for your "class" or experience.

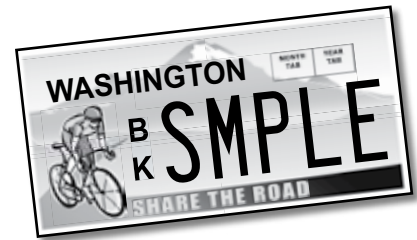
**Every item donated supports a future filled with safe bicycle trips—to the store, to work, to school, to the beckoning wide-open road and adds fuel to your passion for bicycling.**

Continued from page 3

After carefully reviewing these numbers and other articles I have reviewed over the years, I plan to keep on cycling for my health, the health of the environment, my recreation and my alternative transportation. I will continue to work on creating a safer cycling and pedestrian environment. It has become a 20 year effort. Please consider becoming more active in these efforts and reducing your chances of heart disease, cancer and stroke. Take care and wear your helmet.

Bob Myrick is a longtime member of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington.

Thoughts and comments can be sent to us at [bikeinfo@bicyclealliance.org](mailto:bikeinfo@bicyclealliance.org)



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ADVOCATES for bicyclists and  
a **BICYCLE-FRIENDLY** Washington.